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WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION DOWN 41 PERCENT

According to a recent survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee's 2005 winter wheat production is forecast at 8.16 million bushels, unchanged from the May 1 forecast but 41 percent below 2004. The State's average yield is forecast at 48 bushels per acre, 1 bushel below 2004 and also unchanged from the previous forecast. Wheat producers expect to harvest 170,000 acres, down 39 percent from a year ago. Tennessee farmers seeded 270,000 acres last fall, 130,000 acres less than a year earlier and the lowest planted acreage since 1978. The remaining 100,000 acres were used as a cover crop or will be harvested for hay or silage.

As of June 5, over 90 percent of the wheat crop had turned color and a quarter of the acreage was ripe, on pace with normal. Despite disease pressure and weather related problems reported earlier in a few areas, dry weather during May kept the crop in mostly good condition. Farmers plan to harvest on schedule this year.

U.S. WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION DOWN 3 PERCENT

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.55 billion bushels, down 3 percent from the May 1 forecast and 3 percent above 2004. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 44.1 bushels per acre, down 1.3 bushels from the previous forecast. Area for 2005 grain harvest is forecast at 35.1 million acres, unchanged from May 1. As of May 29, heading had reached 81 percent in the 18 major States, equal to the 5-year average. Progress trailed the average during most of May due primarily to below average temperatures. Harvest was underway in the southern-most portions of the growing area.

Winter Wheat: Tennessee, Surrounding States, and U.S., June 1, 2005 with Comparisons¹

State	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Arkansas	620	185	53.0	50.0	32,860	9,250
Georgia	190	230	45.0	50.0	8,550	11,500
Kentucky	380	300	54.0	60.0	20,520	18,000
Mississippi	135	90	53.0	48.0	7,155	4,320
Missouri	930	600	52.0	49.0	48,360	29,400
North Carolina	460	430	50.0	45.0	23,000	19,350
TENNESSEE	280	170	49.0	48.0	13,720	8,160
Virginia	180	170	55.0	57.0	9,900	9,690
United States	34,462	35,069	43.5	44.1	1,499,434	1,545,971

¹ 2005 forecast, 2004 final.

